A quick return mechanism converts rotary motion into reciprocating motion. As the disc rotates, the slide moves forwards and backwards. This mechanism is used inside a shaping machine.

A crank acts like a lever, increasing mechanical advantage.

A ratchet mechanism is based on a wheel that has teeth and a pawl that follows as the wheel turns. As the ratchet wheel turns, the pawl falls into the 'dip' between the teeth. The ratchet wheel can only turn in one direction - in this case anticlockwise.